Office of Great Lakes Capacity Grant Final Report
Wisconsin LaMP and RAP Support
Grant #: 00E00712-6
Grant Period September 1, 2010-March 31, 2016

The capacity grant application identified the following metrics of progress:

- WDNR will monitor progress through the implementation of projects awarded under GLRI.
- Each AOC/RAP Coordinator will be responsible for annual status reports on projects implemented to address beneficial use impairments and will provide an updated/Stage 2 RAP document for their AOC. Overall AOC progress will be coordinated in the Office of the Great Lakes.
- Funded projects will be matched against the delisting plan for each AOC.
- Goals and objectives in the Wisconsin Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy will be evaluated against funded project outcomes. These goals and objectives will be adjusted to reflect new priorities based on monitoring results and partner feedback.
- We will work with monitoring programs and partners to adapt Great Lakes monitoring efforts that support delisting efforts identified in each AOC Delisting Strategy.
- Delisting of Beneficial Use Impairments will be evaluated to assure that they are long term solutions addressing the extent and sources of impairments. Projects that address specific sources of impairments will use quantitative tracking methods (amount of sediment remediated, amount and type of habitat restored, miles of fish passage opened, etc.) with a long term goal of monitoring and tracking restored beneficial uses. The goal will be to delist 10 BUIs in Wisconsin's AOCs by 2014 to meet the overall GLRI Action Plan objectives. This will be dependent on successful competition for BUI delisting projects and science-based monitoring data.
- Number of outreach events where Great Lakes issues are presented. Number and type of outreach materials developed and used at these events. Estimated number of people reached through these efforts. Effectiveness of outreach efforts will be evaluated.
- Improved internal data management for contaminated sediment, wildlife contaminant, and data management systems that facilitates tracking restoration efforts and data sharing.

Funding from this grant funded the following staff positions and functions within the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) at Wisconsin DNR:

AOC and LAMP Policy Coordination
AOC coordination for 5 AOCs, 2 of which are multi-state
LAMP coordinators for Lakes Michigan and Superior including positions focused on sediments and project management
Quality Assurance and funding coordination
Data management including geospatial data and mapping
Policy-maker and Citizen Engagement in Great Lakes issues
Leadership and participation in Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement implementation, Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes Advisory groups (both policy and science)
Coordination within DNR and with Federal partners on project implementation and priorities for action

Other staff within the OGL provided grant administration support, monitoring coordination and data assessment, project coordination with programs within WDNR and external funders, communications including publications and videos documenting restoration success, project management, sediment assessments, and cross-program coordination and oversight of sediment remediations including Legacy Act betterment projects.

AOC-related Operations

Effective AOC program implementation requires statewide coordination as well as community-based AOC-specific coordination.

Statewide activities, led by the **AOC and LAMP Policy Coordinator**, included the following:

- Developing a RAP Update template and ensuring that the documents are published annually unless there are mitigating circumstances that delay publication;
- Statewide AOC program planning, including the following:
    - coordinating meetings and conference calls to provide a forum for staff to discuss policies, procedural instructions, and opportunities for collaboration;
    - identifying and prioritizing projects for GLRI funding from a statewide perspective;
    - developing a statewide estimate of BUI removal timeframes; and,
    - coordinating & facilitating an annual state-federal AOC meeting.
- Developing a framework for AOC Restoration Reports; these are report-card-style publications that provide a visual means of conveying AOC status. **Links to the most recent AOC Restoration Reports are included in Appendix A along with other outreach materials that were developed**;
- Developing a vision for and providing input on the construction of an AOC BUI tracking database (details about the tracking database appear in the "Improved Data Management" section below);
- Developing an RFP process for small AOC monitoring and community engagement grants, and tracking small community engagement grant implementation and reporting.
- Providing support for challenging BUIs that require the development of new policies or approaches (e.g., Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC eutrophication BUI).

The AOC and LAMP Policy Coordinator also participated in two of GLNPO's AOC conference planning committees, helped to develop conference sessions, and presented information about Wisconsin's efforts in conference sessions.

Individual AOC Coordinators played critically important roles during the grant term in carrying out the following:

- Translating statewide policy and procedural instructions to local AOC implementation efforts;
- working with local partners to identify and prioritize projects;
- implementing AOC management actions funded through our Non-competitive grants (including project scoping, contracting, and oversight);
- providing support for QAPP development;
- compiling and interpreting monitoring data and other information to assess BUI status;
- preparing RAPs/RAP Updates and engaging stakeholders in review processes; and,

- preparing BUI removal documents and facilitating associated stakeholder review processes.

The AOC Coordinators were able to make significant progress in clarifying and quantifying the status of the many BUIs where status was either unknown or qualitative prior to 2010. This status determination set the stage for informed decisions regarding management actions to address impairments. Through coordination with others as well as through their own efforts and expertise, AOC Coordinators were able to provide focused support to key project partners which translated to very significant management action implementation that may not have occurred otherwise (or would have taken longer to occur in the absence of AOC support).

As a result of these efforts, Wisconsin has removed the following BUIs:

- 2011: Beach Closings/Restrictions on Recreational Contact – Lower Menominee River
- 2014: Degradation of Aesthetics - St. Louis River AOC
- 2015: Restrictions on Dredging – Sheboygan River AOC
  Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae – Sheboygan River AOC

Additional AOC-specific accomplishments are outlined below.

St. Louis River

As a bi-state AOC with significant tribal involvement, the St. Louis River AOC requires a high level of coordination between Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Fond du Lac Band at both the staff and management levels. Wisconsin's St. Louis River AOC Coordinator played significant roles in the following:

- contributed to the development of the 2013 *Implementation Framework: Roadmap to Delisting (Remedial Action Plan Update)*; coordinated with OGL for DNR review of the document.
- Co-led the development of the BUI removal document for the Degradation of Aesthetics BUI; BUI was successfully removed in August 2014.
- Served as Wisconsin DNR's representative on multiple BUI teams;
- Served as project manager for a fish tumors assessment; a bacteria source tracking project (to characterize Beach Closings BUI); fish passage assessment (for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI); and a series of projects in the Nemadji watershed (for the Excessive Loading of Sediment and Nutrients BUI).
- Coordinated the 2014 and 2015 updates of the 2013 *Implementation Framework* to document changes to BUI timelines and management action lists; summarize new information; and provide progress reports for ongoing or completed management actions.

As a result of the efforts of the AOC team over the past five years, the "Fish Tumors or other Deformities" BUI is expected to be proposed for removal in late 2016 or early 2017. Many actions are underway in the AOC to keep making progress towards delisting other BUIs through implementation of management actions and projects in the AOC.

Lower Menominee River

Wisconsin and Michigan share the Lower Menominee River AOC and have successfully worked together to address BUIs. The efforts of both states' AOC Coordinators have been essential as projects are required in both states, and AOC decisions, document reviews, and stakeholder

engagement requires equal participation by each state. Wisconsin's Lower Menominee River AOC Coordinator has had leadership roles in the following activities:

- Coordinated aquatic vegetation and mussel surveys, fisheries data compilation & analysis, and monitoring of rookery activity;
- Served as project manager for the Menekaunee Harbor Restoration project that was completed and began development of the South Channel habitat restoration project;
- Reviewed documents contributed by Michigan DEQ and ensured that Wisconsin data and information were available to Michigan where needed;
- Facilitated the contributions of citizen and technical advisory committees to AOC decisions and documents; and,
- In close partnership with the Michigan DEQ AOC Coordinator, led the development of RAP updates and status reports.

Due to the high level of activity in the AOC (requiring an all-hands-on-deck approach to management action implementation) and the need for sediment management expertise, DNR's LAMP Sediment & Project Management Coordinator served as project manager for one of the most significant Lower Menominee River AOC projects, the Menekaunee Harbor habitat restoration. This project was accomplished through very close partnership with the City of Marinette and is a great example of a project that accomplished benefits for the ecosystem while contributing to the economic revitalization of the AOC community.

As a result of the efforts of the AOC team over the past five years, the "Restrictions on Dredging" and "Degradation of Benthos" BUIs are expected to be proposed for removal in 2016 or early 2017. The "Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption" BUI is expected to be proposed for removal in 2017. All management actions are expected to be completed by the end of 2016, with verification monitoring for the "Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat" and "Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations" BUIs expected to continue through 2018.

<u>Lower Green Bay and Fox River</u>

With 13 of the possible 14 beneficial uses considered impaired, the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC is a large AOC with complex issues contributing to beneficial use impairments. The Fox River PCB cleanup, which is separate from but important to the AOC effort, is nearing the completion of in-river remediation work (expected in 2018). AOC efforts over the past five years have focused on assessing the status of selected BUIs and charting a path on the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae BUI. Significant activities by the Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC Coordinator include the following:

- Developing an approach to assessing the status of the Degraded Aesthetics BUI and overseeing implementation of the volunteer monitoring effort;
- Serving as project manager for an assessment of the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Populations & Degraded Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUIs (led by UW-Green Bay in partnership with The Nature Conservancy);
- Facilitating technical stakeholder engagement and supporting the efforts of the Citizens Advisory Committee ("Clean Bay Backers");
- Collaborating with the AOC & LAMP Coordinator to engage stakeholders and DNR colleagues in developing an approach to the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae BUI; and,
- Developing RAP Updates and facilitating stakeholder input and review of the documents.

With the momentum generated via the capacity grant, the AOC is poised to arrive at a list of management actions for multiple BUIs in 2017, expand implementation, and continue support for important partner efforts such as the Cat Island Chain restoration.

Sheboygan River

The Sheboygan River AOC was selected by GLNPO as one of the first "near-term" AOCs which led to a significant acceleration of management action implementation. With an exceptional effort from the Sheboygan River AOC Coordinator and supporting staff from the Great Lakes team, all management actions were completed by early 2013. Since then, the emphasis has been on verification monitoring to ensure achievement of AOC targets. The following list represents some of the key activities by the Sheboygan River AOC Coordinator:

- Convening a technical advisory committee to select management actions, enhance communication and collaboration with project partners and technical experts, and solicit input to BUI removal decisions.
- Serving as project manager for the ~$6 million "Pathways to Delisting" habitat restoration grant, including contracting, project oversight, and tracking/reporting.
- Serving as project manager for a multi-year, multi-faceted verification monitoring project.
- Working with the UW-Extension Natural Resource Educator to develop community outreach and education materials and programs.
- Sharing success stories and lessons learned with representatives of other AOCs, regional Great Lakes groups, and Wisconsin officials.

The Restrictions on Dredging and Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae BUIs were successfully removed in 2015. Preliminary USGS data suggests that the Degradation of Benthos BUI may be eligible for removal in 2017. Verification monitoring that is currently underway will inform future BUI removal decisions for the remaining impairments.

Milwaukee Estuary

The Milwaukee Estuary AOC is a large AOC that includes three tributary rivers and Milwaukee Harbor. Many organizations are engaged in river and harbor restoration planning and project implementation. The Milwaukee Estuary AOC Coordinator's efforts have focused on bringing partners together to develop a shared vision of the AOC program's projects and outcomes. To that end, the AOC Coordinator has accomplished the following:

- Facilitated a stakeholder process to select the management actions for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI;
- Provided project oversight for the fish population assessment (carried out by USGS) and the wildlife population assessment (carried out by Milwaukee County Parks in collaboration with UW-Milwaukee).
- Developed an approach to assessing the status of the Degraded Aesthetics BUI and providing oversight for a contractor that is leading monitoring activities;
- Provided support to project partners for developing grant applications, scopes of work, and project designs.
- Developed RAP Updates and facilitated stakeholder input and review of the documents.

These activities have led to the development of a nearly-complete management action list for the AOC; remaining management actions for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI are expected to be identified in 2017 or early 2018. Implementation of management actions for the habitat

BUI has been greatly accelerated. While some work remains to address gaps in sediment data, the AOC is steadily approaching readiness for near-term AOC status.

LAMP-related activities

Wisconsin's **LAMP staff** have participated in regional, statewide, and basin-specific initiatives. Activities included the following:

- Participated in GLWQA Lakewide Management (Annex 2) committee and task teams;
- Participated in lake partnership working groups for Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, as well as in sub-committees of these groups.
- Contributed to the development of the 2016 Lake Superior LAMP document; contributed to the development of regional strategies to facilitate implementation of the Lake Superior Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- Contributed to the development of Lake Michigan LAMP annual reports.
- Reviewed and commented on multiple GLWQA documents, including the draft nearshore framework, Great Lakes habitat baseline survey, Annex 2 outreach and engagement task team report, and LAMP guidance.
- Served as a member of the Lake Michigan Stakeholders steering committee.
- Hosted the State of Lake Michigan Conference in October 2013.
- Coordinated coastal wetland grant applications to direct noncompetitive GLRI funds to WI projects that help to meet the GLRI Action Plan 2 Focus Area 4 measures of progress.
- Assisted with AOC efforts, given the strong emphasis of GLRI on AOCs and the need for enhanced capacity to implement many projects on accelerated timeframes; LAMP Coordinators were critically important for accelerating progress in AOCs as they served as project managers for selected sediment remediations and habitat restorations.
- Began working to update Wisconsin's Great Lakes Strategy (currently placed on hold due to DNR realignment); developed a template for the document, evaluated options for measuring progress, began writing draft content, and explored stakeholder engagement approaches.
- Participated in federal agency initiatives such as the USFWS Landscape Conservation Design effort in Lake Michigan's Green Bay watershed and the NRCS Lake Superior Landscape Restoration Partnership.

The LAMP staff have strengthened partnerships, successfully implemented restoration and protection projects, and provided an important link between regional efforts and local on-the-ground activities. They will continue to play key roles in implementing LAMPs, Biodiversity Conservation Strategies, and Wisconsin's Great Lakes Strategy to ensure the achievement of targeted outcomes.

Improved Data Management that Facilitates Tracking Restorations and Data Sharing

Great Lakes program staff worked to develop three important tools and initiatives focused on data management and restoration tracking: SWIMS, collaboration with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and NOAA to pilot Great Lakes DIVER and Wisconsin AOC BUI Tracking Database.

SWIMS – OGL uses WDNR water program SWIMS database for tracking project-specific data, monitoring location information, project status, and associated documents. External partners who are associated with projects can obtain access to SWIMS to enter sampling events, generate

laboratory submittal sheets or progress reports. Data from the State Laboratory and our primary macroinvertebrate laboratories is transferred electronically and other data reports can either be uploaded or attached as documents. The system can generate status summary reports that serve as the core information for grant reporting.

Great Lakes Diver – Two efforts came together to improve handling of sediment results and facilitate data sharing: NOAA's project to incorporate Wisconsin data into their Query Manager database and collaboration with Minnesota to have a unified system for handling environmental data in the St. Louis River AOC. These efforts evolved into a pilot of Great Lakes Diver for the St. Louis River. DNR's efforts have been focused on creating a uniform system for data sharing across different organizations that ensures quality assured data and completeness, and maximizes usability for decision-making. We believe EPA's Exchange Network provides an important model for this type of data sharing and all states have system nodes. NOAA's infrastructure provides important system management into the future. The collaboration between the organizations will provide significant value as the system extends beyond the pilot. The geospatial tools and system design will facilitate incorporation of both biological and chemical data that will support both AOC-level and lake-wide decision-making involving data generated by the diverse stakeholders working within the Great Lakes.

Wisconsin AOC BUI Tracking Database -
The AOC BUI tracking database is used for AOC planning and reporting. It captures projects' costs (where known), funding sources, start & end dates, BUIs addressed, and other information. It is used to generate project summary tables for RAP Updates, to generate BUI statuses for the AOC Restoration Reports, and to generate ad hoc reports for DNR managers. It can be queried and can aggregate information from all five AOCs. The AOC BUI tracking database was presented to GLNPO staff at the 2015 state-federal AOC meeting and received very positive feedback.

Projects related to capacity funding:

The capacity grant enabled WDNR to fund approximately 83 monitoring or citizen engagement projects totaling approximately $1,000,000 as well as support for the St. Louis River Alliance. These small projects enabled AOCs groups to collect important data to move forward with AOC assessment, provide preliminary funding for larger projects to assure assessments could be completed on time, allowed refinement of delisting targets for the AOCs, and events to introduce legislators and other key decision-makers to the on-the-ground activities being funded through GLRI.

Annually, OGL staff worked with partners to identify priority projects for the AOC that either assess the status of impairments or involve on-the-ground actions that are necessary for removing impairments and delisting an AOC. AOC coordinators invested significant effort to develop project proposals included in these non-competitive grants to assure that the work proposed connected directly to AOC needs and that the projects were ready for implementation.

2009 Capacity – Sheboygan River AOC targeted Invasive Species Control Project and Schuchardt Farms Conservation Plan
GL-00E00489 Sheboygan River Pathways to Delisting (1 project – 10 components)
GL-00E00876 Sheboygan River (9 projects)
GL-00E01091 AOC Next Steps (4 projects)

GL-00E01206 Milwaukee Estuary (5 projects)
GL-00E01312 Menekaunee Harbor (5 projects)
GL-00E01474 St Louis River (9 projects)
GL-00E01568 South Channel Habitat Implementation in Lower Menominee River (1project)

Great Lakes Funding and Quality Assurance Coordination (GLFQAC)

For each of the 120 projects, the GLFQAC reviewed project documents, determined which required quality assurance project plans (QAPPs), worked with project teams during plan development, reviewed and approved QAPPs, transmitted approved documents to the EPA grant manager and used EPA's QA Track tool to upload and track their progress through the complete approval process. The process was further streamlined after the GLFQAC developed a program-specific module to DNR's Quality Management Plan that enabled GLNPO to delegated quality assurance plan approval, minimizing the level of review needed at GLNPO to fully approve the QAPPs. The GLFQAC led DNR's process to update the Department's QMP in 2012 and continues to be involved in preparing the annual quality assurance submittals.

During the term of this grant, the GLFQAC provided quality assurance support to staff within OGL's sediments section for sediment assessment or remediation projects, some of which were associated with Great Lakes Legacy Act, Superfund or work by US Army Corps of Engineers. Sites with one or more projects included:

- Ansul/Tyco
- Ashland Manufactured Gas Plant
- Cedar Creek
- Crawford Creek – Koppers
- Hog Island
- Howards Bay
- Kinnickinnic River
- Lincoln Park
- Lower Fox River
- Lower Scott Flowage
- Manitowoc River (Hayton)
- Milwaukee River
- Newton Creek
- Portage Canal
- Sheboygan
- Superior Waterfront
- Upper St. Louis River

In addition to the grants managed through the Office of Great Lakes, the GLFQA assisted DNR staff or external partners in project plan development for awarded grants that included but are not limited to:

GLRI Wisconsin Partnership for Invasive Species
Ashland Shoreline Restoration
Barrens Habitat Restoration
Beach Modeling

Removal of Phragmites and Lyme Grass from Lake Michigan shores
West Shore Green Bay Northern Pike Habitat Projects (Brown and Oconto Counties)
Implementing WI DNR's Lake Superior Nearshore Monitoring Plan
Developing TMDLs in the Milwaukee area (4 projects)
Invasives in Trade
Red Swamp Crayfish Mitigation
Lake Superior Floristic Quality Assessment – Benchmarks
Lake Superior Floristic Quality Assessment – Phase 2 Northern Lakes and Forests Survey
Statewide Characterization of Streambed Sediment Quality of Wisconsin's Wadeable Streams

Great Lakes Funding and Quality Assurance Coordinator responsibilities include evaluating grant applications requesting letters of support for external funding (e.g. Fund for Lake Michigan, UW Sea Grant, Great Lakes Protection Fund and Coastal Program) as well as being a member of the Great Lakes Commission Sedimentation and Phosphorus Reduction Task Team that recommends projects for funding through a Farm Bill grant program administered by GLC. Since 2011, the GLFQAC coordinated Wisconsin's beach program, managing the BEACH Act grants, and supporting communities in their efforts to restore coastal beaches.

Participation in Great Lakes-wide Organizations, Prioritization, and Key Issues

OGL's Director and program staff have been active contributors and participants in Great Lakes policy and advisory groups that include but are not limited to the Great Lakes Commission (Commissioners), the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB), Great Lakes Executive Committee (GLEC), the International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Dredging Team, Asian Carp Workgroup, Great Lakes Beach Association, and the Lake Superior Bi-National Forum. Wisconsin nominated staff to serve on each of the Water Quality Agreement Annex groups, with nominations accepted for all but one Annex.

During the term of this grant, Wisconsin hosted the State of Lake Michigan conference and serves on the planning team for the annual St. Louis River Summit. Staff also serve on Wisconsin's Coastal Hazards Workgroup and participate in grant application review for Wisconsin's Coastal Management program (NOAA funded), the Fund for Lake Michigan (non-federal funding) and Great Lakes Commission (Sedimentation and Phosphorus Reduction through the Farm Bill). These connections have been critical for aligning funding with worthy projects.

Lessons Learned

AOC Boundaries – Two of the five AOCs in Wisconsin cross state boundaries. This added complexity in establishing delisting targets and remedial action plans. Throughout the process in bi-state AOCs, additional coordination has been necessary to reconcile differences in state laws and approaches to addressing BUIs.

AOCs were established before a number of regulatory programs were in place. Decisions about identifying AOCs were primarily driven by contaminated sediment sites and as the listing documents were prepared, program staff made assumptions about how BUIs connected to watershed issues would or could be addressed. As a result, four of the five AOCs have boundaries that are limited to the associated rivers and riparian zones. This has added complexity

for developing strategies to address BUIs such as degradation of wildlife populations and habitat, and eutrophication.

AOC size influences the level of effort needed to address BUIs. Two of the five AOCs are relatively small (in terms of geographic area covered, numbers of BUIs, and community populations) and addressing the BUIs has been relatively straightforward, particularly once sediment remediations have been completed. Their RAPs include verification monitoring that has been critically important for assuring that recovery is occurring, especially for fish and wildlife consumption advisories and fish tumor BUIs. Our three larger AOCs involve more stakeholders and groups involved in restoration efforts with diverse views about the resource, priorities for action, and management systems for implementing projects. The AOC coordinators invest a significant effort to collaborate with these stakeholders and align funding and project priorities to keep moving forward with addressing the BUIs.

BUIs and Delisting Targets – Evaluation of historic AOC listing documents indicates that some of the impairments were based on limited data that proved inadequate for use as a baseline and given the time that had elapsed between listing and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a critical step has been to verify the status of the impairments and evaluating the delisting targets. Many of the delisting targets in the original documents did not include measurable endpoints or included broad ecological endpoints that, upon further consideration, are unachievable (e.g., are beyond the scope of the AOC program). Considerable effort has been necessary to develop lists of actions that would lead to delisting with community support.

Project development support and timing of funding – OGL staffing has included monitoring and habitat coordinator positions to keep project development focused on critical needs for addressing the BUIs. This has been important for insuring a continuous stream of fundable projects. Having people with the skills necessary to cover a broad range of projects from water to wildlife enables OGL to implement successful projects, generate credible supporting documentation for delisting and ensure continuous flow of projects that match the needs for the AOC. Project audits have demonstrated that this approach is cost-effective and lead to important economic development in the affected communities.

The timing of grant announcements and the timelines for grant application packages have proven to be a significant challenge for OGL and our project partners. As a result, applications for important AOC-related projects submitted for GLRI grant opportunities may not be competitive. In addition, the timing of funding may not align with stakeholder's budget cycles, resource availability, or the field season. The Federal-State annual meeting has proven effective for communicating priorities and aligning projects with appropriate grant programs, and leveraging work by multiple Federal Agencies to achieve our mutual goals. As an example, WDNR identified USGS's monitoring of contaminants in tree swallows in the AOCs as extremely important for evaluating wildlife-related BUI which allowed EPA to prioritize this work within GLRI and streamline the funding process (i.e. fund USGS directly rather than passing funds through WDNR, which increased overhead costs)

Pairing funding and quality assurance – OGL used a non-traditional approach to meeting EPA's grant condition for quality management by creating a position that linked funding and quality assurance. This has proven effective for assuring that project planning is integral to the grant process and approved quality documents are in place in a timely fashion. The Funding and QA Coordinator collaborates effectively with project staff which facilitates meeting project timelines

and the connection to funding facilitates tracking grant progress. An added benefit to involving a person with quality assurance experience at the project proposal and letter of support stage is improved project applications that more closely align with the criteria outlined by the funding agency. The early interactions with the grant applicants translate to shortening the quality assurance plan review and approval process.

Capacity Grant Administration -- The grant administration of the 2010-2016 capacity grant worked very well for OGL to have the long term commitment of 5 years of funding for staffing our Great Lakes program. Having this commitment of stable long term funding allowed us to hire 8 permanent staff and 4 project staff. Without a commitment of this length we are not able to staff permanent or project positions. This is very important in our ability to hire and keep highly qualified staff to implement long term plans and develop strong relationships with stakeholders and key partners in the AOCs. Also having enough funds to hire a full position is needed since we don't have the ability to hire partial staff at a level necessary to do this work in the AOCs. Going forward with our capacity funding it would be good if we could continue this 5 year grant commitment.

Another plus with a longer term funding commitment is the amount of time and effort our staff puts into grant administration, writing and processing grant applications. It takes many hours of staff time by DNR staff throughout our agency all the way through to our Secretary's office to process grant applications. This is time taken away from other work we could be doing on AOC, LAMPs and Great Lakes priorities.

Appendix A
Outreach Materials

Wisconsin DNR Web Pages
Areas of Concern: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/aoc.html
Lakewide Action and Management Plan: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/greatlakes/learn.html

Publications for Wisconsin's Areas of Concern*:

Restoration Reports	Fact Sheets
St. Louis River	St. Louis River
Lower Menominee River	Lower Menominee River
Lower Green Bay & Fox River	Lower Green Bay & Fox River
Sheboygan River	Sheboygan River
Milwaukee Estuary	Milwaukee Estuary

*Restoration Reports were published in 2013 and 2015; Fact Sheets were published in 2012 and 2015. The links are for the 2015 versions.

Wisconsin Lakesider (AOC newsletter; prior to 2015, support for AOC newsletters had been provided by University of Wisconsin-Extension under a 2010 GLRI grant**)**
Spring 2015
Fall 2015

Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine Special Insert (2013):
Healing Our Rivers & Harbors: Wisconsin's Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Wisconsin Area of Concern Videos:
Menominee River Area of Concern: Changing Waters
Menekaunee – Bringing the Harbor to Life
The Sturgeon Passage: Up River Refuge
The Sturgeon Passage: Getting a Lift
Sheboygan River Area of Concern: Fast Track to Recovery
Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern: A Community Returns to its Rivers
Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern: Connecting Milwaukee's Youth
Habitat Restoration for Northern Pike
Migratory Bird Stopover Habitat in Wisconsin's Areas of Concern
Tree Swallow Monitoring in Wisconsin's Areas of Concern

Exhibits
St. Louis River
Milwaukee Estuary AOC Display exhibited at Wisconsin State Fair in August 2015 (not available online)